

Application No. 10/769,177

3COM 2237-3
(2237.CTO.US.P)In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] of the application with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/416,827 filed 12 October 1999 entitled *Improved Spanning Tree With Protocol For Bypassing Port State Transition Timers, now Patent 6,771,610*, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 60/116,422 entitled *Truncating Port State Transition Timers in the Spanning Tree Protocol for Bridged Local Area Networks*, filed 19 January 1999.

III